

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: ILO: DISCUSSION WITH DG OF GENEVA GROUP CONCLUSIONS

1. SUMMARY. US AND UK OFFICERS DISCUSSED GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING WITH BLANCHARD. THREE PRINCIPAL ISSUES WERE TOUCHED UPON: (A) NECESSITY FOR HOLDING DOWN ILO BUGGET; (B) STRONG GENEVA GROUP SUPPORT FOR SEMI-FULL BUDGETING; (C) PROBLEMS RAISED BY POLITICIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. UK AND US GENEVA GROUP CO-CHAIRMEN CALLED ON DG BLANCHARD TO REVIEW WITH HIM MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE GENEVA GROUP (CONSULTATIVE LEVEL) RELEVANT TO ILO. WE INFORMED BLANCHARD OF THE STRONG VIEWS EXPRESSED AT THE GENEVA GROUP ABOUT THE NEED FOR ILO TO KEEP ITS BUDGET FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM AT THE MINIMUM AND THE DESIRABILITY, WHEREEVER POSSIBLE, OF FINANCING NEW PROGRAMS BY REDUCING OLD. WE NOTED THAT GENEVA GROUP (ILO) HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DISMAYED AT DENBY STATEMENT THAT BUDGETING IS ON "FULL" BASIS. BLANCHARD REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO INDICATE THAT IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF SEMANTICS BUT, IN PRACTICE, HE BELIEVED THE ILO REALLY WAS USING PROCEDURE THAT COULD BE CALLED SEMI-FULL BUDGETING. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE 1974

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BUDGET HAD ASSUMED AN INFLATION RATE OF 3 PERCENT, COMPARED

WITH THE ACTUAL 12 PERCENT. SIMILARLY, EXCHANGE RATE ASSUMPTION ALSO FOLLOWS THE PRINCIPLE OF SEMI-FULL RATHER THAN FOR FULL BUDGETING. FINALLY, HE INDICATED THAT AT A STAFF MEETING YESTERDAY HE TOLD ILO EMPLOYEES TO REVIEW THEIR REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY AND NOT TO FEEL THEY MUST SPEND ALL OF THE MONEY IN THEIR BUDGETS.

3. WE ALSO INFORMED BLANCHARD OF THE GENEVA GROUP DISCUSSION OF POLITICIZATION, WITHOUT WANTING TO GET INTO ANY SPECIFIC POLITICAL ISSUES. BLANCHARD REPLIED THAT HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREED THAT POLITICAL ISSUES CAN DETRACT FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THAT THEY BELONG IN NEW YORK AND NOT GENEVA. IN FACT, HE HAS TOLD WALDHEIM SO. HE CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR BEING KEPT INFORMED OF GENEVA GROUP DISCUSSIONS.
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